

New Zealanders improve further

From G. Viswanath

HAMILTON, Feb. 25.

The wheel of fortune is now turning in favour of New Zealand. The team has rediscovered the winning ways at international level. Its win against Australia in the World Cup opener at Eden Park may have been a surprise but there was no denying its class as it beat Sri Lanka in the second match at Trust Bank Park here. Its six-wicket triumph was its second win in as many matches. This is a fantastic start for a team which has been down in the dumps, but skipper Martin Crowe has, in all modesty, preferred to underplay the achievements so far.

The Kiwis were obviously the pre-match favourites. The first New Zealand-Sri Lanka one-day inter-

done what Crowe did putting the opposition to bat first. But it was Crowe, who for the second time, won the toss and had no hesitation in deciding to field to give his mediumpacers the advantageous conditions to get at the opposition. Crowe's assessment of his regular attack could not be found fault with. His bowlers Morrison, Willie Watson, Gavin Larsen and Chris Harris, responded brilliantly to restrict Sri Lanka to 206 for nine wickets in 50 overs. One has to hand it to Crowe for effectively switching his bowlers to upset the free-stroking Sri Lankans whose batting proficiency did not take off to any threatening level due to the sustained probing line and length the Kiwis maintained.

For the Kiwis the asking rate was just over four an over and on a pitch which was slow, the Sri Lankans Champaka Ramanayake and Pramodya Wickremasinghe strove for pace in search of a few breakthroughs. This enabled the ball to come on

Wright's dominance prevented Sri Lanka applying any sort of pressure. He often pulled the ball to the mid-wicket boundary, leaned into an extra-cover drive, came down heavily on shot-pitched deliveries with cut shots and was in total command against the seamers. The stocky Latham off-drove Ramanayake and forced another one through point and the runs came in torrents.

Bits & pieces players: The Sri Lankans were obviously short of specialist bowlers and opted to fill most of the slots with bits and pieces players, more inclined to wield their bats than come up with tight bowling. The slow left-hand spin of Anurasi, introduced as early as in the sixth over, might have marginally checked the run flow.

Allrounder Ruwan Kalpage's off-spin did not seem to pose problems, but he was the unlikely bowler who really struck and gave a flicker of hope for Sri Lanka in 11 overs, from the 18th to 29th. New Zealand lost three wickets. Latham was bowled through the gate by Kalpage, after the opening stand had carved out 77 runs. Kalpage snapped a low return catch to send back Wright for 57 (76 balls, 9 fours). Then Martin Crowe swung Wickremasinghe to Ramanayake and suddenly the Sri Lankans' buoyancy increased.

Anurasi and Kalpage put Sri Lanka back on the rails, but at some stage skipper de Silva, perforce, had to take them off. This meant there was a likelihood of the batsmen once again coming on top. Allrounders Ranatunga, Gurusinge, and Sanath Jayasuriya, more known for their batting simply did not possess the bowling skill or craft to contain the batsmen.

Costly lapse: In exactly 20 overs New Zealand required 101 runs with seven wickets in hand and how rapidly it could reach the target depended on Andrew Jones and Ken Rutherford. They were the two specialists and to take the fight into the rival

camp, Sri Lanka had to dismiss one of them at least. The chance came at the fall of Crowe's wicket with the New Zealand score at 105 for three. But Rutherford was dropped off the second ball he faced. Ranatunga, the lone slip, turfing the catch, the bowler to suffer being Wickremasinghe.

Scintillating strokes. Thereafter Rutherford and Jones were in full control. Their 81-run partnership off 101 balls virtually sealed the fate of Sri Lanka. Jones worked the ball around picking gaps and hit four 4s in his 77-ball knock of 49 runs. But Rutherford collared the bowling with some scintillating

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA		
R. Mahanama c and b Harris	80	9
A. Samarasekera c Wright b Watson	9	9
A. Gurusinge c Smith b Harris	31	20
A. de Silva (run out)	5	8
A. Ranatunga c Rutherford b Harris	5	20
S. Jayasuriya (run out)	2	5
H. Tilakaratne c Crowe b Watson	11	2
R. Kalpage c Larsen b Watson	11	2
C. Ramanayake (run out)	2	3
D. Anurasi (not out)	3	3
P. Wickremasinghe (not out)	25	5
Extras (b-1, lb-15, w-4, nb-5)		
Total (for nine wks — 50 overs)	206	

Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-50, 3-120, 4-172, 5-172, 6-181, 7-195, 8-199, 9-202.

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

	O	M	R	W
Morrison	8	0	36	0
Watson	10	0	37	3
Larsen	10	1	29	0
Harris	10	0	43	3
Latham	3	0	13	0
Patel	9	0	32	0
NEW ZEALAND				
J. S. Wright c and b Kalpage	57			
R. Latham b Kalpage	20			
A. H. Jones c Jayasuriya b Gurusinge	49			
M. D. Crowe c Ramanayake b Wickremasinghe	5			
K. Rutherford (not out)	65			
C. Harris (not out)	85			
Extras (lb-3, w-3, nb-3)	9			
Total (for nine wks — 48.2 overs)	210			

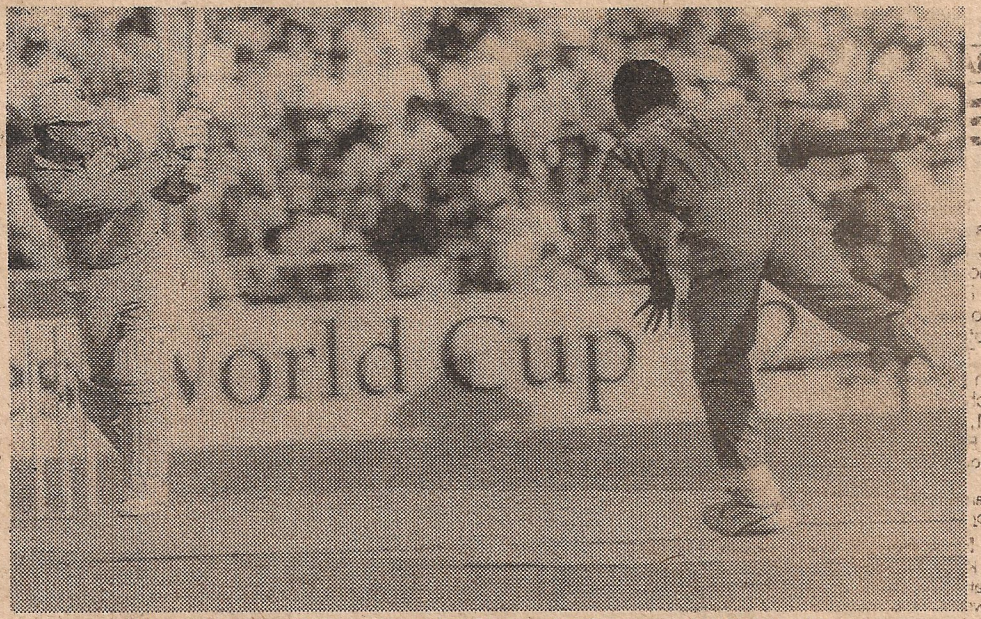
Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-90, 3-105, 4-186, 5-187, 6-199, 7-202.

SRI LANKA BOWLING

	O	M	R	W
Ramanayake	9.2	0	46	0
Wickremasinghe	8	1	40	1
Anurasi	10	1	27	0
Kalpage	10	0	33	2
Gurusinge	4	0	19	1
Ranatunga	4	0	22	0
Jayasuriya	2	0	14	0
de Silva	1	0	6	0

strokes allround the wicket. He swung Hanatunga for a six over midwicket and punched four more fours to ensure New Zealand a facile six-wicket win and with 10 balls to spare. When Rutherford heaved Ramanayake over forward of square-leg, the familiar sight of the supporters converging at the centre, heralded another significant win for New Zealand. Rutherford was adjudged man of the match.

The modest Sri Lanka total of 206 was due to a



The man of the match Ken Rutherford pulls Champaka Ramanayake for the winning run. — Fax photos: N. Sridharan

resolute 80 by Roshan Mahanama for whom it was the second 50 plus knock in as many innings. The Sri Lankans did not find it easy to score freely. The Kiwi medium pacers not affording any scope for it, with fine exhibition of bowling to a length and allowing the pitch to do the rest.

The Kiwi bowlers have learnt their lessons and the nuances of one-day cricket, a point driven by Crowe before the Cup opener. The hamstring injury to Athula Samarasekara was a big setback and his wicket was a gift to the Kiwis. Aiming to clear the ring, Samarasekara drove to Wright at wide mid-off. The quick running between the wickets with Mahanama nudging and gliding behind square kept the runs ticking away in singles and twos.

Vice-captain and left-hander Asanka Gurusinge showed promise, pulling Watson, but Chris Harris, who bowled a good first spell, forced Gurusinge to defend and the ball seemed off the pitch to take the faintest of edges for a regulation catch to wicket-keeper Ian Smith. Umpire Pilo Reporter, unsighted by Gurusinge in front, consulted square leg umpire David Shepherd to ascertain that Smith had taken a clean catch.

The scoring rate picked up marginally with de Silva in the middle. Mahanama's first attacking stroke had come in the 10th over, cover driving Watson but he and de Silva carried on mostly through singles and twos. They staged a splendid rally, adding 70 runs for the third wicket when Harris's fielding brilliancy and accuracy terminated a vital partnership. Mahanama's defensive push was well short of Harris, but the Kiwi allrounder pounced on the ball, bending low and in a flash beat de Silva, trying to scamper to the striker's end, with an under-arm hit to the middle stump.

Crowe once again gave his bowlers short spells, except Larsen who had a long spell of eight overs and Watson who had an opening burst of seven overs. But Crowe shuffled Harris, Latham, Morrison and off-spinner Dipak Patel, frequently. At 163 for three after 40 overs and with a few more hard-hitting batsmen to come, there was a possibility of Sri Lanka touching 230. But Harris, who bowled a few prodigious inswingers, did the trick in the 42nd

over. He had Ranatunga caught deep at square-leg and Mahanama, who had crossed over, hit back to Harris an easy catch. This put Harris on a hat-trick, but Sanath Jayasuriya averted it.

A disaster: Mahanama and Ranatunga's dismissals proved a disaster for Sri Lanka as it collapsed adding a mere 43 runs in the last 10 overs. Surely the Kiwis are beginning to assert themselves on the field. Superb fielding and catching have given the sharpness to the attack. It was another team effort from the Kiwis.

For 42 overs, Mahanama held the forte. He did his best to rotate the strike and punctuated his tenure with six delightful fours. His 80 came off 132 ball with six fours, but the Kiwis made yet another winning day for them. They played up to their near potential, but the pick of them all was Chris Harris. A brilliant run out of Aravinda de Silva and the wickets of Mahanama, Gurusinge and Ranatunga were Harris's contribution.

Ratnayake to return home

HAMILTON, Feb. 25.

Fast bowler Ramesh Ratnayake has been ruled out from taking part in the Benson & Hedges Fifth World Cup championship. One of the key bowlers in the Sri Lanka new-ball attack, the 28-year-old Ramesh dislocated his right shoulder in the warm-up match against Pakistan at North Sydney Oval on February 17.

There was another bad news for Sri Lanka this afternoon opener Athula Samarasekara is unlikely, to be fit for two weeks due to hamstring pull. The team management here has sought replacement for Ramesh, but the World Cup rules disallow substitutes to injury on muscles while playing in the Cup.

Ramesh will return home and his likely replacement is allrounder Nishantha Ranatunga, younger brother of Arjuna and Damkina. Nishantha should reach Australia after the India-Sri Lanka match at Mackay. He will be available for selection for Sri Lanka's match against South Africa at Wellington. — From Our Special Correspondent

South Africa needs help from rich cricketing nations

CANNBERRA, Feb. 25.

South Africa's leading cricket administrator today warned that the future of non-racial cricket in the Republic would be threatened unless rich cricketing countries provided a cash injection.

Dr. Ali Bacher, chief executive of the newly-formed United Cricket Board of South Africa, said millions of dollars were urgently needed for sports facilities in poor townships where officials were trying to foster cricket among young black players. He called for wealthy members of the International Cricket Council (ICC) to donate a portion of their profits to a special ICC development fund for South Africa.

He said the end of sporting apartheid had given black South Africans dignity but they now wanted to see the imbalance in sporting facilities for whites and blacks corrected.

The size of the task was enormous, he said. In some townships, there was not a single blade of grass, let alone a cricket wicket. The UCBSA had pledged profits from South Africa's visit to India and participation in the World Cup would go towards its townships programme but Dr. Bacher said other countries should be helping.

"There are a lot of countries that make a lot of money out of cricket and they use it for developing their own internal structure," he said. "But I just get a feeling that there may be an international responsibility."

Dr. Bacher and Australian Cricket Board Chief executive Mr. David Richards will discuss a resumption of Test series between the two countries when they meet at Wednesday's historic World Cup match in Sydney.

Dr. Bacher said Australia, the last country to play South Africa in a sanctioned Test before the sports boycott, would be one of the first countries to resume Tests against South Africa. — AP

'Come in spinner' rents the air

MELBOURNE, Feb. 25.

The call of 'come in spinner' has reverberated around Australian bars, hotels and gambling halls since the betting game of two-up began in the 19th century gold rush days.

The game — involving betting on the toss of two coins — is less popular now but its rallying call is set to be heard again on Thursday as England and West Indies show this cricket World Cup could become known as the one that revived the apparently dying art of spin bowling.

New Zealand kicked off by opening its bowling against Australia on Saturday with Dipak Patel, then the West Indies, for so long the prime purveyors of pace, successfully twirled 20 overs of spin from Roger Harper and Carl Hooper in their 10-wicket defeat of Pakistan on Sunday.

Now England is considering pairing its spin twins Phil Tufnell and Richard Illingworth in a match that will decide who joins New Zealand at the top of the embryonic World Cup table.

Tufnell was severely dealt with by India during England's nine-run win in Perth on Saturday but his main attacker, Ravi Shastri, is an excellent player of spin.

By contrast, West Indies is notoriously prone to collapse against it — particularly the slow left-arm variety, as Tufnell himself showed in a spell of six wickets for four runs as England won the fifth Test at the Oval last August.

The inclusion of Illingworth, who was less successful in that drawn Test series but did well when England won all three one-day internationals that preceded it, would not weaken the team's batting or fielding strength. Alternatively, England could opt for a few overs of Graeme Hick's burgeoning off-spin. Hick failed again with the bat against India but, with Allan Lamb having only a "remote chance of playing" according to manager Micki Stewart, is expected to retain his place. — Reuter

DEATH

Smt. ALAMELU (68), wife of A. S. Ananthakrishnan, Retired Special Grade Accountant, TN&ER, passed away on 24-2-92. Dasasathu on 4-3-92 at No. 5/32/D, Meera Avenue, P & T Quarters, Anna Nagar, Madras-60.

Smt. SUDASILA LAKSHMI DEVI, W/o late Dr. Susarla Satharao, Smt. Gauri of Hindupur, attained the Lotus Feet on 21-2-92. Tenth day ceremony 1-3-92 at Dr. Captain S. K. Mohan and Dr. Jagalakshmi Mohan's residence, 43, East Street, Kottamalai.

P. SAMPATHKUMAR, Inspector of Incometax, expired on 25-2-92. Funeral today 10 a.m., behind AVM Studio.

South Africa's biggest test begins today

From R. Mohan

SYDNEY, Feb. 25.

The Australians are so 'sold out' on South Africa that even the weather over Sydney may clear in time to let them celebrate the return of the cricket team from the Republic. It is 21 years since the South Africans played here and the wistful sentimentality of those lost years is evident in the sellout of Wednesday's match.

A positive change in the weather pattern has been forecast by the men from the met office who have had a busy time this summer explaining away the unusually heavy rainfall. There was very little rain today and there may not be undue interference to the play from the weather tomorrow afternoon when the most popular game of the preliminary league of the World Cup will begin.

Allan Border could be seen smiling a bit. He is the one who cannot be unduly bothered about the historic occasion that the media has built up the Australia-South Africa clash into. He is far more worried about getting enough cricket in so that this is no reduced overs lottery in which even the lesser team must stand an equal chance.

Strange rules: The rules of the World Cup are also somewhat strange when it comes to rain-interrupted matches because the target is to be readjusted in such a way as to give the team batting first a reasonable chance. While a washout will be the worst possible result for the team most fancied to win the World Cup, a part game can be equally dangerous or even more so if South Africa is able to cause another big upset like the one New Zealand brought off on Saturday.

A washout would be a disaster to the host and to the financial directors of the World Cup. A sum of \$A5,000,000 (\$5.1 crore) would have to be refunded to patrons if even an hour's play is not possible. That would hit the projected takings badly since only at Australia's league games can the 'Full House' boards be expected to go up.

Over 48,000 people should be at the SCG tomorrow when Kepler Wessels, the former Australian Test batsman, and Allan Border, his one-time

teammate in the Queensland Shield side, go out to toss. Peter Leroy, the curator, is worried over his being unable to stick to the instructions for preparing a third day's wicket of a Test match. "This will be more like a first day's wicket, dampish, green and probably seaming a bit," he said. The toss would assume an abnormal significance since the captain winning the toss would have to insert the opposition and try to exploit the damp and the movement. But both captains wish to bat first, they say.

Australia will be hoping to cash in on a bowlers' wicket by including a full-time third seamer in Mike Whitney. He may take the place of Mark Waugh who has been out of luck and who, like Azharuddin, has not helped his own cause by hitting the ball across the line all season. Too much innovativeness too early in any innings has been the downfall of both in the Test and World Series. Whitney, the hero of the second finals last month and of the final Test in Perth, is very familiar with the SCG where he has played some of his best cricket.

Tough itinerary: The South Africans' biggest test is about to begin. They are set to play their eight matches in the World Cup league in 19 days. Wessels admitted that such an itinerary is tough on his side but that they could understand because South Africa was the late ninth team admitted into the Cup.

Much of South Africa's fortunes in the Cup will depend on Wessels' own contribution. He is no dasher but he has a fair average of 36.39 for his 1951 one-day international runs since his appearance, for Australia, in 1982-83. Since the series against India in which Wessels was joint man of the series with Sanjay Manjrekar, his team has played only one warmup match, against Zimbabwe in Harare and the weather had not been too kind to them over the last week when at least three matches have been washed out.

If Wessels is in poor form he tends to go into his shell in order to groom for his runs and that would be bad for a basically inexperienced lineup of batsmen. While the skipper is an excellent accumulator of

runs, it must have become clear to all following this World Cup that there is more to the team game than personal landmarks and averages. The strike rate becomes very important, particularly in Australia where the pitches are not going to permit a runflow as in New Zealand where the wickets are so much slower.

What can be surmised from South Africa's series of three matches in India is that its batting is far more likely to flower in good batting conditions. While its bowling will pick up in conditions helpful to seam bowling, its batting may not be up to it if it comes to bowler-dominated one-day cricket. The Aussies will be hoping tomorrow's match will be more of a bowlers' game because of the weather and the damp.

Five-man seam attack: South Africa is likely to leave out young opening batsman Mark Rushmore, spinner Omar Henry and fast bowler Tertius Bosch. The last named is a genuine quick but South Africa may plump for the experience of Richard Snell. Allan Donald, Snell, Brian McMillan, Merrik Pringle and Adrian Kuiper are expected to make up a five-man seam attack. Batsman Wessels (Hansie) Cronje, pacer Pringle and batsman and brilliant fielder Jonathan (Jonny) Rhodes will be making their international appearance.

The Australians would have to promote Steve Waugh who looked in good nick on Saturday against New Zealand. David Boon has a sore knee but he has to carry on since so much of the batting revolves around what is turning out to be his personal summer of runs. The Australians will be formidable in Sydney than they were in Auckland.

It was fine for South Africa to treat so much of the run-in as an historic occasion. The latest entrant to the World Cup will soon realise that the cricket in the Cup, with so much nationalistic feeling being whipped up in football World Cup's style of having the national anthems played before each match, can be quite demanding.

The teams, Australia (likely): A. R. Border (captain), G. R. Marsh, D. C. Boon, D. M. Jones, T. M. Moody, S. R. Waugh, I. A. Healy, P. L. Taylor, C. J.

Latest standings

SYDNEY, Feb. 25.

Standings after today's match in the World Cup (played, won, loss, tie/no result, points):

Team	P	W	L	T	Pts
New Zealand	2	2	0	0	4
England	1	1	0	0	2
West Indies	1	1	0	0	2
Sri Lanka	2	1	1	0	2
Australia	1	0	1	0	0
India	1	0	1	0	0
Pakistan	1	0	1	0	0
Zimbabwe	1	0	1	0	0
South Africa	0	0	0	0	0

Tuesday, February 25

At Hamilton (New Zealand), Sri Lanka (206 for nine) lost to New Zealand (210 for four) by six wickets.

BOXING

Team for Asian meet cleared

NEW DELHI, Feb. 25.

A 12-member boxing team has been cleared for participation in the Asian boxing championship-cum-first Olympic selection trial for the Asian region to be held at Bangkok from February 26 to March 4.

Three technical officials — Ashok Ahuja (SAI), G. Nagpurwala (Mah), Col. Bharat Singh — and coach B. I. Fernandes (Cuba) have also been cleared on no cost to Government basis.

Light flyweight — R. Prasad, flyweight — D. S. Yadav (CISF), bantamweight — Shashi Kapoor (Pun), featherweight — V. Devanand (RSCB), lightweight — T. B. Thapa (SSCB), light welterweight — S. M. Dhayal (Rap), welterweight — P. Bhonsale (SSCB), light middleweight — Sanjay Kumar (SSCB), middleweight — M. Kiekar (SSCB), light heavyweight — Lakha Singh (SSCB). Coach — O. P. Bhardwaj (SAI), manager — Maj. P. Padmakaran (SSCB). — PTI

LOS ANGELES: Hernandez retains title: American Genaro Hernandez retained his World Boxing Association junior lightweight championship with a unanimous points decision over Venezuela's Omar Cantata in a vicious and bloody 12-round brawl. The three judges scored the fight 115-112, 116-111 and 116-112, all for the 25-year-old Hernandez who improved his unbeaten record to 25-0.

FOOTBALL

Umayanandan performs hat-trick

From Our Sports Reporter

Himachal Pradesh 1 Sikkim 0
Andhra Pradesh 5 Tripura 0

COIMBATORE, Feb. 25.

Champion last in 1985, Andhra Pradesh could not have asked for a better lung opener as it overran lowly Tripura in a Cluster D preliminary league match tonight in the Lifebuoy 48th National football championship for the Santosh Trophy being held here.

Andhra's winger R. Umayanandan, helped himself to a hat-trick, the third instance recorded in the current nationals. Umayanandan actually accounted for four goals with Zulfiqar Alam Khan scoring the other in a match where Andhra could have accumulated a few more goals but preferred to take it easy. Tripura thus had to reconcile to its second successive defeat.

In the day's first match, Sikkim did all the planning and moves but it was Himachal Pradesh which came up with the only goal of the match for a surprise end result. Sher Singh headed in that all-important goal in this Cluster G match. Despite the victory Himachal had little to aspire but return home.

As one of the two teams from the South to qualify for the inter-zonal last year, Andhra Pradesh had put up a scrappy show. But packed with experienced players this time and showing good understanding in the forward line, Andhra took only sometime in warming up. Attacks came initially from the middle where Zulfiqar showed good speed. But it was the quick passing bouts emanating from the left flank, where Umayanandan slowly but surely gained prominence, which finally unsettled the Tripura defence.

Umayanandan's first goal came close to the 23rd minute after a joint progress with Zulfiqar. Six minutes later Sayeed, who had represented India at the Hyderabad pre-Olympics competition, playing as an attacking medio, fed Zulfiqar from the right for the latter to toe it in.

Barring the occasional efforts by Habul Roy and Pankaj Deb to break the monotony of Andhra's attacks to the Tripura end, the action was at the goal area of the North East visitors. Nearing the lemon time, Umayanandan volleyed a Srinivasa Reddy lob from the left, which saw the ball take the goalkeeper's fingers before nestling into the net.

The focus was now on Umayanandan as he closed in for his personal feat after he capped a solo early in the second session. The moment came shortly thereafter when Ali Akbar's pass came in handy for a left-footer that once again found the target.

Himachal Pradesh shocks Sikkim: Earlier, in the comfortable conditions of a late afternoon match, Himachal Pradesh sprang a surprise beating a hard working Sikkim by a solitary second-half goal.

Though Himachal's effort did little to bolster its hopes, it certainly gave Karnataka's chances of entering the quarterfinal league round a boost. Sikkim will have to beat Karnataka by a three-goal margin to change that script.

Sikkim deserved a better deal. The players from the north east, making their first outing, planned their moves well, but its strikers could not deliver the goods.

Action for most part of the game was concentrated at the Himachal end, before, of what seemed a stray move, a routine switch of the ball to the rival end, shocked Sikkim.

Prem Bushan, the Himachal skipper, trying hard to lead by example, move up to the left corner of the rival territory, and essayed a perfect cross and striker Sher Singh jumped up and angled the header so well that the Sikkim goalkeeper, Suresh Rai was taken unawares.

The goal, late in the second session, did give a pep to the Himachal players who appeared emboldened to do more. Vijay Shamsar once came close to the rival end only to deliver a feeble push. A shocked Sikkim players tried every angle, but luck was not with them. Ujjal Barky, the Sikkim forward, would vouch for that after heading over from a handshaking distance.

Tomorrow's matches: Karnataka v Sikkim (C.G.) 4 p.m.; Haryana v Andhra Pradesh (C.I.) 6 p.m.